

AKIRA

37

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AKIRA and **Y. Pao** 37

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 37

EVOLUTION

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2000 The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kameda**, creative leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoeko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each one was identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyuko** — Number 13 — now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite **SOX**, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kameda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now **Kameda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28 — **Akira**, a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastates the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. New Japan exists

in a state of emergency. The force of the army and the resistance are scattered and the military's formidable combat robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as its prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's **Olympic Stadium**. To the east, **Lady Miyuko** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical ornaments which take a tremendous toll on **Tetsuo's** forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international concclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juwelle A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster. When the fleet sends fighter planes against **Tetsuo**, he uses a satellite to destroy their flag

ship, forcing the surviving military personnel and scientists to flee.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**. **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers as one.

Kaneda teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** – a friend and rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons, the trio lead a force of refugees and street rats to help **Kay** in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on, drawn by the similarity of **Tetsuo's** powers to his own.

Tetsuo is grief-stricken over the death of his gentle girl-friend **Kanari**. He carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. **Akira** follows and is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyeiko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently blooms and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored **Tetsuo's** humanity. Then, **Tetsuo's** power comes surging back and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified at what might occur if **Akira** awakens fully, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine. **Kay** follows in hot pursuit. Lady Miyako instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**, and the pair teleport away to help their friend. Lady Miyako, her followers, and **Kay** prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

Kiyoko and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane. They are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before.

Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, Lady Miyako herself draws **Tetsuo** to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await.

Kay is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by the force of **Akira's** mind.

Trapped within **Tetsuo's** soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships. He shares with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

Kaneda is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she tells him. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, along with all the catastrophes they bring, are a vital part of mankind's evolution.

THEir
CUTS WERE
DEEPER...

THEY
WENT
DOWN
TO
THE
BLOOD
OF
THE
WOUNDS...

THE
WOUNDS
WERE
DEEPER
TO
THE
BLOOD
OF
THE
WOUNDS...

THEY
WENT
DOWN
TO
THE
BLOOD
OF
THE
WOUNDS...

THEY
WENT
DOWN
TO
THE
BLOOD
OF
THE
WOUNDS...



ALL KNOWING
HIS POSITION
WAS IN JEOPARDY
HE WANTED
TO SURVIVE
EVOLUTION...



HEARD THE
SOUND OF
A
GUN
FIRE
AND
HE
WAS
GONE...



CAN YOU
DO IT?
THE
HUMAN
RACE
WAS
GONE...



HE
WAS
GONE
AND
HE
WAS
GONE...



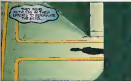
HE
WAS
GONE
AND
HE
WAS
GONE...

HE
WAS
GONE
AND
HE
WAS
GONE...



THAT'S
TODAY
BUT
YOU
CAN'T
SEE
THE
FUTURE
AND
THE
PAST
IS
GONE...













228

「お前」



「お前」



「お前」

































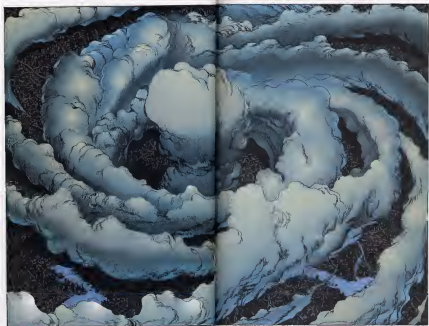
YOU HAVE DISRUPTED
THE ARMY, YOU HAVE
BROKE THE BARRIERS!

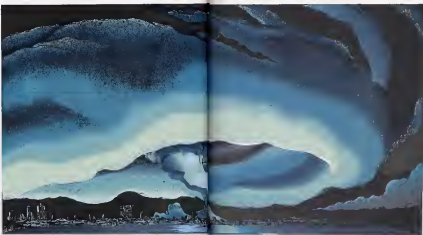


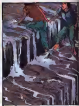
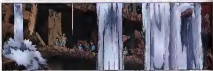


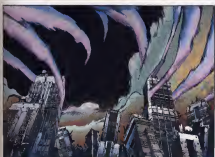




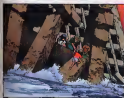
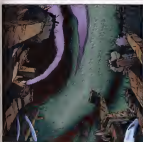










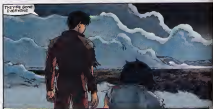






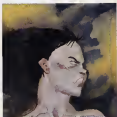








NEXT ISSUE: THE FINAL CHAPTER



AKIRA

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YANG BATES

FINAL BETS

JO SHUFFY
LARRY
JOHN TROTTA
PETER



I'M DISAPPOINTED YOU'RE
NOT TALKING ABOUT
DUSTY LANE. THAT
CONSIDERING
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST?

HEP! HE'S
A MAN ON THE
VIDEO. THE BOY WE
PREDICTED.

TOMMY'S RIGHT. I
GOT MY TOTAL AFTER THE
TUMBLER, BUT NOW NOW
I'M CONCERNED WITH THE
SQUAD.

I MEAN
THE TUMBLER.

YOU
KNOW THE
TUMBLER.

THE
BOY YOU
SAID

WAS
SUPPOSE TO BE IN
THE VIDEO?

I WANT
THAT FIVE
BROTHER.

HEY, THAT WAS THE FIVE. I WANT
THE OTHER FIVE. BUT NOT THE FIVE.

SURELY AND OF COURSE THE BOY
WAS THERE. AFTER ALL, THE OTHERS
CAN SEE. YOU KNOW A BOY WHO
CAN SEE? YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN
LOOKING AT IT. HAVE YOU EVER
SEEN SOMETHING?

YOU
LET
ME
KNOW.



HOW MANY
BANDS ARE
LINED UP FOR
TONIGHT?

PAGES 6-7

ALL OF THEM
EVERY BAND IS GOING TO
APPEAR THAT EVENING
AND THE GAME OF CLOUTIER



AND
BANDS THAT
I DON'T
KNOW
WE'VE GOT
TO KICK
THEIR
BUTTS.



YEAH!



YOU'LL MEET BEFORE
HARD AT BARTON
YOU'VE GOT TO
BUTTER

COME
ENJOY TO
VIBES















SHOOTING STRAIGHT DOWN
AND OFF THE BEAT!

A CAR
WAS IN THE
TWO LANE
AND OFF OF
THE



BEING
AT LUCKY
DAY



IT'S TITLED "THE
BROTHER"

Oh-!

YOU'RE
GONNA
DIE!



AIEEE!

SPLUTCH





DAVE
1998

KATSUHIRO OTOMO
with **BLAKE** for

SHOJIJI TAKAHASHI
and assistant to Mr. Otsu

SATOSHI KIKU
with assistant to Mr. Otsu

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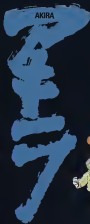
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CARL POTTS
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These are the most powerful and beautiful and insanely beautiful anime movies ever made. It's a masterpiece that plunges the depths of good and evil, of love and hate, of human emotion, of life and death, being led to experience a new world of mind-boggling power and emotion. A young boy named Tetsuo stands up to a world of evil, and meets a world of dangerous gangs, taking in the pain and suffering of the world, and the world of the future. The world of the future is a world of the future, and the world of the future is a world of the future.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



POCKET EDITION